

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed January 4, 2008 has been received and the Examiner's comments carefully reviewed. Claims 1-2, 7-9, and 14 have been amended. No new subject matter has been added. Claims 12-13 and 15-18 have been cancelled. Claims 1-11 and 14 are currently pending. Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Examiner Interview

Applicants' below signed representative conducted a telephone interview with Examiner Pascua on March 4, 2008 and March 13, 2008. The interview was directed toward proposed claim amendments to address the Examiner's concerns regarding the presently cited art. The Examiner indicated that the presently submitted amendments distinguished the cited art and that the claims will be further considered upon completion of a final art search. The Examiner is thanked for his time.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102/103

Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Fukumori et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,808,666). Claims 1-13 and 15-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fukumori et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,808,666) and Peppiatt (U.S. Patent No. 5,033,868). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections, but have amended claims 1-2, 7-9, and 14, and cancelled claims 12-13 and 15-18 to advance this application to allowance. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the original subject matter in a continuing application.

Applicants have amended the claims as agreed upon in the above summarized telephone interview. For the reasons discussed in the interview, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are now in condition for allowance.

SUMMARY

It is respectfully submitted that each of the presently pending claims (claims 1-11 and 14) is in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is requested. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the below-listed telephone number if it is believed that prosecution of this application may be assisted thereby.

Respectfully submitted,



Date: April 2, 2008

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A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Karen A. Fitzsimmons". The signature is written over a horizontal line.

Karen A. Fitzsimmons
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KAF:cjc